To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament Assembled. 104

Articles Offered to be Proved

THE Perſons concerned to oppoſe the Bill to Prohibit *Eaſt-India* Silks, &c. Humbly Repreſent to Your Lordſhips ſeveral Matters of Fact, which they were, and ſtill are, ready to Prove by Credible Witneſſes upon Oath, if Your Lordſhips think fit, which are as follow, *viz.*

I. That near half the Woollen Manufacture ſent to *India*, is vended at *China*, *Surrat*, *Fort St. George*, and the *Bay* of *Bengal*, as well as at *Perſia*, and is uſed for Covering of Rooms, Tents, Covers for Camels, and abundance of other uſes, as well as Garments; And that the *Indians* like our Manufacture ſo well, that the Vent thereof is Daily increaſing, and the Goods propoſed to be Prohibited, are in great part the Product of the ſaid Woollen Manufacture.

II. That the Value of One Hundred Thouſand Pounds *per Annum*, in Woollen Manufacture, has actually been Exported to *India*.

III. That a great Quantity of Money is ſent to *Turkey* to help off our Woollen Manufacture, as well as to *India*.

IV. That in *Holland* there are many more Looms going than in *England*, and notwithſtanding they have a Manufacture of their own much nearer to the *Indian* than we, yet they not only Import theſe Goods from *India* themſelves, but permit them to be Imported into *Holland* from all other Parts.

V. That the *Weavers* in *Holland*, ſome Years ſince, Petitioned the *States* to make ſuch a Prohibition as is Propoſed here: But upon a full Hearing of the Matter, it was rejected.

VI. That the *French* have mightily Courted the Trade from *India*, and Settled the Company Trading thither, with great Advantages; and in *France* theſe Goods are every where Publickly Sold and Worn: So that either there is no ſuch Edict in *France*, as is pretended, or it is Diſpenſed withal, or ſome New Edict has been ſince emitted.

VII. That the *Weavers* had a good Trade here in *England*, and increaſed in their Numbers, whilſt theſe *Eaſt-India* Goods came over in greateſt plenty, and when they were ſold at half the Prizes they are now at; and there is at preſent a Duty of 20 *per Cent.* upon them more than was then.

VIII. That it is not the Importation of theſe Goods which decays their Trade, if it be Bad, but the Calamity of the War, Alteration of the Coyn, and Scarcity of Money, which equally affects other Trades. For that upon the Alteration of the Coyn, our *Weavers* Goods fell in their Prizes, and their Work fell off; whilſt at the ſame time *Eaſt-India* Goods being ſcarce, grew dearer and dearer.

IX. That at this preſent Time, at *Norwich* they begin to have a brisk Trade, and their Goods are Riſen 10 *per Cent.* lately, and in great Demand, notwithſtanding the Companies late Sale of *Silks*, which they Complain of.

X. That though *Mercers* beſpeak Goods of the *Weavers*, the *Weavers* will not make them, but keep their Men out of Work, that they may Clamour for this Bill.

XI. That it is only the *Silk-Weavers* that are concerned in this Matter, and not the *Staple Woollen-Manufactury*, which this Bill will rather leſſen and obſtruct than promote: So that the Clamour about the *Woollen* Manufacture is all out of doors in this Caſe. For if this Bill paſs, many *Weavers* of *Wooll* would turn to be *Silk-Weavers*, as ſome already have.

XII. That the *Weavers* concerned in this Affair are nothing near ſo Numerous as is pretended: And, That the *Linnen-Drapers*, and other Trades depending thereon, who would be Hurt by this Prohibition, are as Numerous, as thoſe who would receive Benefit by it.

XIII. That the *Indian Wrought Silks* are very much Improved here by a further Manufacturing; and great Numbers of our People Employed therein.

XIV. That the Poverty and Miſery amongſt the *Weavers* is very much miſrepreſented; and that it is no greater, in proportion, with them, than amongſt other ſort of poor Trading People.

XV. That notwithſtanding all, the Maſter *Weavers* have in few Years laſt paſt got great Eſtates, and continue to Thrive well.

XVI. That if *Eaſt-India Silks* are Prohibited, and not thoſe from *Holland*, *France* and *Italy*, and other Parts, We ſhall only Wear the latter in the room of the former, to the far greater Expence of the Nation.

XVII. That if this Bill paſs, theſe Goods will be made and imitated in *Holland* ſo like, that it will be impoſſible (when Sold here) for the *Drapers* to prove they are not *Eaſt-India* Goods.

XVIII. That great Quantities of theſe Goods are ſold for Exportation to *Cadiz*, *Lisbon*, the *Canaries*, *Maderas*, and other Foreign Parts, under the Value of 50 *l.*

XIX. That if this Bill paſs for Prohibiting the Selling and Wearing *Perſian Silks*, it is probable the *Perſians* will Prohibit Our Manufactury, which will not only affect the *Eaſt-India*, but alſo the *Turkey* Trade.

XX. That a Ship lately in *China* could not put off our Manufactury without taking their Manufacture: And that if this Bill paſſes, we ſhall probably loſe the Trade for *Saltpetre*, as well as the other part of the Trade to *India*.